

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 114

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 1449

FOR L/EUR - MR. RUSSELL

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, BGEN, BE

SUBJECT: AMERICAN LAWYERS IN BRUSSELS

REF: STATE 40461

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE (WHO WAS JOINED BY POLITICAL DIRECTOR DAVIGNON) MARCH 7 TO LEAVE TEXT OF AIDE-MEMOIRE APPROVED IN REFTEL.

2. I EXPLAINED TO MINISTER THAT WE HAD THOUGH THIS PROBLEM HAD BEEN DEALT WITH FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE THROUGH MY ARRANGEMENT WITH MINISTER TINDEMANS TWO YEARS AGO. I STRESSED THE IMPORTANT AMERICAN INTEREST INVOLVED AND URGED ON HIM THE IMPORTANCE OF REMOVING ANY DOUBT AS THE STATUS OF OUR LEGAL OFFICES IN BRUSSELS.

3. DAVIGNON SAID HE WAS AWARE OF PROBLEM SINCE HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED BY FOURDIN ON THE BASIS OF OUR EARLIER CONVERSATION. HE SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD BEEN OPPOSED TO THESE RESTRICTINS ON THE PART OF THE MINISTRY OF MIDDLE CLASSES. DAVIGNON THOUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD NOW HAVE TO ESCALATE CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER. HE PROPOSED TO MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ARRANGE A HIGH-LEVE CONSULTATION WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JUSTICE AND MIDDLE CLASS MINISTRIES, CITING THE TREATY

ASPECTS AS JUSTIFICATION FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY INTERVENTION.
HE THOUGH THE THE CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE THREE MINISTRIES
SHOULD BE FOLLOWED BY CONSULTATION WITH THE BATONNIER OF THE
BRUSSELS BAR.

4. THE MINISTER SUGGESTED THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH BELGIAN
LEGAL COMMUNITY SHOULD BE BROADER THAN JUST THE BRUSSELS
BAR SINCE THIS WAS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. DAVIGNON OPINED THIS MIGHT INDEED
BE USEFUL LATER IF SOMETHING SATISFACTORY COULD NOT BE
WORKED OUT WITH THE BRUSSELS BAR.

5. IN CONCLUSION OTHE MINISTER SAID THIS MATTER WOULD
HAVE TO BE LEFT TO "OUR SECESSORS" IN VIEW OF THE ELCTIONS
ON MARCH 10. I AGAIN EMPHASIZED TO THE MINISTER, HOWEVER,
THE IMPORTANC OF U. S. INTERESTS INVOLVED IN THIS ISSUE,
AND THE NEED TO DO SOMETHING WITHOUT DELAY TO ASSURE THAT
THE MINISTRY OF THE MIDDLE CLASSES DID NOTHING TO IMPLEMENT
ITS RECENT MEASURES.

6. WE HAVE KEPT THE AMERICAN LEGAL COMMUNITY REGULARLY
INFORMED OF OUR EFFORTS AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS
WITHIN THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT FOR AN EARLY RESOLUTION
TO THIS PROBLEM.

STRAUSZ-HUPE

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